

Please don't allow media giants (of whatever scale) to take over the news market. Diversity works in our favor.

Our government is SUPPOSED to have checks and balances, and our CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED MEDIA should, as well.

Unfortunately, a growing segment of our media is less than objective -- pushing religious or political agenda. What's to keep us from being inundated with propaganda from either? Because they have the financial means, should we allow them to become the ONLY GAME IN TOWN?

Would you prefer to read the Taliban Daily News, or watch it on Taliban TV?

On one front, we're trying to curb large corporations from influencing elections ... and on another, we're considering this???

Sorry, too many people ALREADY rely on only ONE media format these days. They're either pressed for time or inundated / saturated with coverage. Too often, they ONLY listen to drive-time radio - or read the paper - or watch their FAVORITE TV news (determined by which anchorperson is more attractive). Fortunately, if they converse with neighbors and co-workers who use a different source - a fuller picture can emerge. But that's only if a different source is available.

But if ONE CONGLOMERATE controls all (or most) news coverage in an area (never mind country-wide) - the potential for SPIN / INFLUENCE is too great. We'll be bombarded with editorials that represent only ONE SIDE. There are already too many zombies among us.

We already have (but I won't name) well-known news outfits that cater to fanatical right-wingers or the chronically daft (entertainment-style news). Will tabloid-news take over our future? We used to say there are no dumb questions - but I've heard some idiotic interviews...

TRUTH isn't one-dimensional - it has many different sides.

Have you read your morning Pravda? Or did you catch the state-sponsored news broadcast? Do you know only what THEY want you to know? Was it presented fully and fairly? HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?

The difference here is that (a very BIG) someone would be making money from it - or gaining powerful influence (which we would be vulnerable to).

Too many in the public accept "the news" at face value. Look at the fervor caused by Sen. Joe McCarthy - we even changed the Pledge of Allegiance to accommodate him! He had the "power of the press" until a courageous woman Senator from Skowhegan, Maine caused an uproar of her own - which (using the power of the press) helped to turn the tide.

MONEY shouldn't always have the upper hand. The FCC should protect diversity and preserve the few checks and balances we have on the

media.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH doesn't work well when you're drowned out by the other guy's loudspeaker. Do we value CONFORMITY or DIVERSITY of viewpoint, because we'd be enabling one at the expense of the other. The human animal is suspicious of what's different. Once we begin to discredit dissenting information, we'll fall asleep at the wheel.

The ADVANTAGE should go to "We, the People" - not big business. Broadcast Ownership isn't just a business proposition, it's tied directly into the first amendment and our (diminishing, it seems) RIGHT TO KNOW!

Competition and Challenge provide an incentive to help keep them honest!

I become less skeptical and more cynical every day. I see our government lecturing corporations on the need for "transparency," even as our RIGHT TO KNOW becomes a NEED TO KNOW (and they've appointed THEMSELVES as arbiter). Then, what we are ALLOWED TO KNOW is packaged by a former Madison Avenue executive.

We used to be able to read through the B.S., but today we're dealing with "biosolids." And the e-coli (bias) is a lot more potent.

Please pardon if I seem to have rambled. I have presented some of the "worst case scenarios" but they are not far-fetched. This is our risk and it's germinating as you read this. The possibility greatly disturbs me.

The Great United States of America was supposed to be an adventure in idealism - not a capitalistic or imperialistic endeavor.

Look behind, where we've come from, and look ahead, at what awaits us.

Let's choose our path carefully.